

COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1

Members: Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2
Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3
Mr. Charles E. Davis, District No. 4
Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, District No. 5
Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr. District No. 7
Mr. Henry L. Richardson, District No. 8
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

The COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, met at a special committee meeting on Monday, February, 11, 2002, in the Assembly Room of the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Milton Farley, Councilmember District No. 1, Chairman; Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, Councilmember District No 2; Mr. William E. Crosby, Councilmember District No. 3; Mr. Charles E. Davis, Councilmember District No. 4; Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, Councilmember District No. 5; Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Councilmember District No. 6; Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Councilmember District No. 7; Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., Councilmember District No. 8; Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor ex officio; Mr. D. Mark Stokes, County Attorney; and Ms. Barbara B. Austin, Clerk to Council.

The requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been complied with by posting the time, date, place and copy of Agenda of this Committee meeting of Berkeley County Council at the entrance to the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and a copy of such notice was mailed to all Councilmembers, the News media, and other interested citizens.

Chairman Farley called the meeting to order; Councilmember Pinckney gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Supervisor Rozier suggested they go into Executive Session to take care all of the matters they needed to address.

It was moved by Councilmember Spooner and seconded by Councilmember Vaughn to go into Executive Session to discuss contractual matters. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

The Committee went into Executive Session at 6:06 and returned at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Stokes stated the Committee went into Executive Session to discuss matters as stated in the motion; no formal action was taken.

Chairman Farley continued stating that first on the agenda was Judge Elizabeth Harper, Berkeley County Summary Court, Re: Funding for two temporary employees.

Judge Harper came forward and introduced Ray Mixson, the new Traffic Court Administrator. She stated was present to ask funding for two temporary employees to keep up with the caseloads. Judge Harper stated she could transfer \$9,000 from Line item 5542, Special Contracts; they had asked for \$12,196.80. This is really needed because they are running about four weeks behind and there is no way they can continue going this way.

It was moved by Councilmember Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Vaughn to allow Judge Harper to use the \$9,000 for temporary employment, and that Council revisit the overall system to see what could be done to help improve the Magistrate's System.

Supervisor Rozier stated he read a letter to the Editor a while back that said, "the new Magistrate pays her own way" and he hasn't seen that yet. It would have been good if our Senators had gotten with us first and discuss the real needs of the Magistrates rather than appointing another Magistrate without discussing the real needs.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Next on the agenda was Mr. Ralph E. Hoisington, Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Re: Matching funds for Community Gun Violence Grant.

Mr. Hoisington stated when he took office he recognized immediately that gun problems in our community is a major issue. The Federal Government has fortunately looked into this and understands it. They found that funds were being made available through the Department of Justice to give a three-year grant to add extra Prosecutors to handle gun cases, to help educate members of the community on those issues and try to expedite the movement of those cases. He stated, hopefully, in a best case scenario we would have less problems on our streets. Through Charleston County, they made the application for up to four new Prosecutors for a three-year grant. They recently got word that based on the empirical studies and the numbers in Berkeley and Charleston that they granted the four positions. Charleston had agreed before the application was made to match the 25 percent State funding on all four positions if necessary with the understanding that if they got four they would make one available to Berkeley County because the need is also great here. Mr. Hoisington stated he would like to ask approval for a 25 percent match, which would amount to about \$14,000 a year with fringe benefits over a three year period. This grant should start in April and there is a possibility they could hold off until the next budget year to start implementation if that would work better. However, they would need to know that Berkeley County was behind the idea of the one position so it could be allocated as soon as possible.

Supervisor Rozier stated that if they started in April, \$3,500 would be the amount needed for April, May and June. So, would they start in April or wait until the next budget year and start with \$14,000? Mr. Hoisington stated his desire would be to start when they have a suitable candidate available. Supervisor Rozier asked that if there were not enough gun cases would they be allowed to do other things? Mr. Hoisington stated there are a lot of related cases that have guns as an ingredient.

It was moved by Councilmember Mims and seconded by Councilmember Richardson to approve the maximum of \$3,500 from Contingency for the balance of the year. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Chairman Farley asked the Committee's pleasure on the Approval of Minutes for the Committee on Justice and Public Safety, January 14, 2002.

It was moved by Councilmember Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Mims to approve the minutes for January 14, 2002. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Mr. Stokes referenced without objection the Resolution authorizing the County Supervisor to execute contracts with the Rural Fire Departments for fire protection services.

It was moved by Councilmember Vaughn and seconded by Councilmember Pinckney to send the Resolution authorizing the County Supervisor to execute contracts with the Rural Fire Departments for fire protection services. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

It was moved by Councilmember Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Spooner to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote of the Committee.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

March 18, 2002
Date Approved

COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
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There will be a Meeting of the COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, on Monday February 11, 2002, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 14, 2001

- A Judge Elizabeth Harper, Berkeley County Summary Court, Re: Funding for two temporary employees.
- B. Ralph E. Hoisington, Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit: Re: Matching funds for Community Gun Violence Grant.

February 6, 2002
S/Barbara B. Austin
Clerk of County Council